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COMPLETELY CENSORED LEAD ARTICLE IN SAIGON POST JUNE 19 WAS STORY THAT EX-GENERAL TRAN VAN DON WOULD BE NAME AS NGUYEN CAO KY'S VICE-PRESIDENTIAL RUNNING MATE. ARTICLE REPORTEDLY SAID THAT ACCORDING TO "HIGHLY RELIABLE SOURCES," DON HAD BEEN SELECTED AND MAY HAVE ALREADY ACCEPTED SECOND PLACE ON KY'S TICKET. ARTICLE WENT ON TO ANNOUNCEMENT OF DON'S SELECTION WOULD BE MADE IN 24 - 48 HOURS, AND THAT IF DON CHANGED HIS MIND, VICE-PRESIDENTIAL SLOT WOULD GO TO NGUYEN VAN LOC, CHAIRMAN OF PEOPLE'S ARMY COUNCIL. REST OF ARTICLE WAS

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DEVOTED TO BIOGRAPHY OF DON AND NOTED THAT HIS WAS POLITICAL SUCCESS ON PART OF KY FOR HAVING OBTAINED A MAN KNOWN TO HAVE EARLIER OPPOSED THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT.

COMMENT: IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE HOW DON WOULD BE MUCH OF AN ASSET FOR KY'S TICKET. HE IS, OF COURSE, A SOUTHERNER. HOWEVER, DON HASHWO DEFINITE LIABILITIES: DESPITE HIS RETIRED STATUS, HE IS CERTAINLY BEST KNOWN AS A MILITARY MAN. HE ALSO MAY BE INELIGIBLE AS A CANDIDATE BECAUSE HE WAS BORN IN FRANCE AND THUS MAY NOT MEET THE CONSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENT THAT VICE PRESIDENTUL CANDIDATES MUST HAVE VIETNAMESE CITIZENSHIP FROM BIRTH.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [illegible] DATE 12/7/81
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

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